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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,617	10/30/2003	Keiichi Nakamura	5258-000023	7340
27572	7590	05/25/2004		
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BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303				
			EXAMINER	
			TA, THO DAC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,617

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, KEIICHI

Examiner

Tho D. Ta

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/30/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings

2. Figures 17(A) and 17(B) should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear if a guide surface recited in claim 2 is a new guide surface or a repeat guide surface recited in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okabe (5,820,411).

In regard to claim 1, Okabe discloses a connector comprising: a cavity 37 in a connector housing 32 which receives a female terminal 5; an elastically deformable lance 38, formed on a side wall of the cavity 37, for unremovably locking the female terminal 5 into the connector housing 32; a terminal insertion opening 37c formed on a front wall of the cavity 37 for receiving a tab of a mating male terminal; a tapered guide surface 37a formed on a front peripheral edge of the terminal insertion opening 37c to guide the tab of the male terminal into the terminal insertion opening 37c; a jig insertion opening 39 formed forward from the lance 38 by cutting off a part of the front peripheral edge of the terminal insertion opening 37c to enable insertion of a jig 15 for forcibly elastically deforming the lance 38 to unlock the female terminal 5; and an auxiliary member 34 having a guide surface 37b for supplementing at least one portion of the cut-off part formed thereon can be mounted on the connector housing 32.

In regard to claim 2, Okabe discloses that a retainer 34 for unremovably doubly locking the female terminal 5 unremovably is mounted in the cavity 37, the retainer 34 has a guide surface 37b for partly supplementing the cut-off part.

7. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda (6,165,011).

In regard to claim 1, Fukuda discloses a connector comprising: a cavity 4 in a connector housing 2 which receives a female terminal; an elastically deformable lance 6, formed on a side wall of the cavity 4, for unremovably locking the female terminal into the connector housing 2; a terminal insertion opening 11 formed on a front wall of the cavity 4 for receiving a tab of a mating male terminal; a tapered guide surface 14 formed on a front peripheral edge of the terminal insertion opening 11 to guide the tab of the male terminal into the terminal insertion opening 11; a jig insertion opening (adjacent 8) formed forward from the lance 6 by cutting off a part of the front peripheral edge of the terminal insertion opening 11 to enable insertion of a jig 22 for forcibly elastically deforming the lance 6 to unlock the female terminal; and an auxiliary member 3 having a guide surface 13 for supplementing at least one portion of the cut-off part formed thereon can be mounted on the connector housing 2.

In regard to claim 2, Fukuda discloses that a retainer 3 for unremovably doubly locking the female terminal unremovably is mounted in the cavity 4, the retainer 3 has a guide surface 13 for partly supplementing the cut-off part.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
05/20/04